

Hotel Williams,
Williams House (Williams Hotel Annex)
Murray Bay (west shore)
Grand Island
Alger County
Michigan

HABS No. MI-258 A

HABS
MICH
2-GRAIL,
1A-

PHOTOCOPY

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS
MICH
2- GRAIL,
1A-

HOTEL WILLIAMS,
WILLIAMS HOUSE
(Williams Hotel Annex)

HABS No. MI-258A

Location: Murray Bay (west shore), Grand Island, Alger County, Michigan.

Present Owner: Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company, Ishpeming, Michigan.

Present Use: Vacant.

Significance: This house, being one of the old American Fur Company buildings, is of historical interest as the one-time home of Abraham W. Williams (1792-1873), American Fur Company trader.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Thought to have been built about 1860-1867. Physical evidence is consistent with such a date, in general.
2. Alterations and additions: A first-story porch, interior stairs, flooring, and perhaps some other interior features are alterations.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The house is a simple rectangular structure of the mid-nineteenth century. It has clapboards, double-hung sash windows and a one-story roofed porch.
2. Condition of fabric: Fair, but being allowed to deteriorate. It is nearly impossible to protect against vandalism.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: Two stories plus a full basement. (Dimensions are not available).
2. Foundations: Because of sloping ground the foundations are a full story high on the east (front) side and low on the west side. The materials are sandstone and fieldstone of variable size; some pieces are very large. Similar stone piers support the first-floor porch.
3. Walls: Clapboards are applied directly to sawn studding; the inside is plastered on wood lath.

4. Structural system, framing: Wood frame.
5. Porch: A five-bay wooden porch extends across the east side of the first story. Columns are square in plan and tapered. The railing is simple. It has a shed roof. Under this porch is a full-height basement porch.
6. Chimney: The chimney is centered on the north end.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: A central doorway opens to the porch. It is framed with antae and entablature; mouldings are blocky. The door has four plain panels and is flanked by sidelights.
 - b. Windows: Windows are rectangular, with plain trim and double-hung sash, six lights-over-six lights.
8. Roof: The house has a gable roof, framed with 2" x 3" rafters spaced two feet on centers, and collars, without a ridgepole. Sheathing is of wide boards. The porch is shed-roofed.

The main roof has a boxed cornice with sloping soffit, simple bed moulding, and plain frieze.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The basement consists of one room with a fireplace at the north end.

The first story has one large room and two smaller rooms.

On the second story there is a longitudinal hall with four small rooms on each side.
2. Interior finish and trim: Walls and ceilings are plastered and painted. There is a simple wood base; trim is plain. Doors have four panels.
3. Hardware: The first-floor fireplace has an iron crane.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: This house is located a short distance from the west shore of Murray Bay at the top of a slope. It is above Log Buildings No. 1 (MI-258C) and No. 2 (MI-258D). There are wooded areas toward the west but generally open grassland toward the east.

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